

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 14, 2014

ETHICS COMMISSION DENIES REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMISSIONER AND EMPLOYEE

FREDERICK, MD – The <u>Frederick County Ethics Commission</u> today denied a request by Patrick Allen of Jefferson, Md., to conduct an investigation into an alleged relationship between President Blaine Young of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners and a Frederick County Government employee.

President Young commented, "I had no doubt that this politically-motivated smear tactic would be denied by the Ethics Commission. These kinds of attacks are the lowest form of attack upon solution-oriented politicians like me. I feel that the commission decision was the right decision and applaud them for a quick response to end these false allegations and innuendos that have unfairly targeted me and my family."

Ethics Commission Chairman Harold Otis stated in a letter to Mr. Allen, "Under county law, the powers of the Ethics Commission are limited to enforcement of the Ethics Ordinance. The Ethics Commission cannot address general complaints that an official or employee has acted improperly or unethically unless there has been a violation of the Ethics Ordinance itself. Your request does not contain any facts that would, even if accurate, constitute a violation of the Ethics Ordinance. For that reason, the Ethics Commission has no authority to conduct an investigation into your allegations. Accordingly, your request for an investigation is denied."

The commission will take no further action on this matter.

For additional information about the Ethics Commission, contact the Office of the Frederick County Attorney at 301-600-1030.